



GRP

Grassland Reserve Program

2005 New Jersey Grassland Reserve Program

revised February 2005

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program offering private landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. The GRP was authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill with the intent of protecting and enhancing grasslands which play a vital role in protecting water quality and providing wildlife habitat.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and Forest Service are coordinating implementation of GRP. The program will protect vulnerable grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses, restore previous and declining grassland areas, and help producers improve grass-based agricultural operations.

Enrollment options include:

- **Permanent Easements.** Payments are based on the fair market value of the property less the grazing value.
- **30-year Easements.** The landowner is paid 30 percent of the cost of a permanent easement.
- **Rental Agreements.** 10, 15, 20, or 30-year options are available. Seventy-five percent of the grazing value will be paid in annual payments for the length of the agreement.

Cost share for implementing needed conservation treatments is available under each of the enrollment options. (see reverse)

Eligible Lands:

In New Jersey, the land offered for GRP must include at least 20 contiguous acres. The land must be currently dominated by non-woody species, or have a history of non-woody vegetation and be able to be restored. Land already covered by a state farmland easement *is not* eligible for a GRP easement, however it is eligible for a rental agreement.

New Jersey County	Grazing Value
Atlantic	\$13.00
Bergen	\$15.50
Burlington	\$14.50
Camden	\$14.50
Cape May	\$13.00
Cumberland	\$13.00
Essex	\$15.50
Gloucester	\$14.50
Hudson	\$15.50
Hunterdon	\$13.00
Mercer	\$13.00
Middlesex	\$14.50
Monmouth	\$14.50
Morris	\$15.50
Ocean	\$14.50
Passaic	\$15.50
Salem	\$13.00
Somerset	\$14.50
Sussex	\$13.00
Union	\$15.50
Warren	\$13.00

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Restoration Cost Share:

Up to 90 percent of the cost of conservation treatments on grassland that has never been cultivated or 75 percent on grassland that has been cultivated can be paid under a Restoration Agreement.

Conservation practices that can be cost shared include:

- Brush Management,
- Early Successional Wildlife Habitat Management,
- Restoration of Declining Habitats
- Upland or Wetland Habitat Management
- Pasture and Hayland Planting,
- Conservation Cover (conversion of cropland to grassland),
- Grazing land mechanical treatment,
- Prescribed grazing,
- Use Exclusion (fencing of riparian areas),
- Fencing for new rotational grazing systems,
- Animal trails and walkways for access to pastures, including stream crossings,
- Watering Facilities for livestock, including wells and pumping plants,
- Pipeline to support a watering facility,
- Heavy use area protection around watering facilities,
- Erosion control practices such as grassed waterways or diversions

Definitions:

Pastureland – an area of perennial grass and/or legume species that is grazed annually at some time during the growing season.

Grassland – an area characterized by and dominated by low growth of grasses, forbs, weeds, sedges, and/or rushes. Trees and/or shrubs constitute 10% or less of the canopy cover.

How to Apply: Contact your local NRCS Service Center for an application, or visit the NJ program web page at <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grp/index.html> for more details.

Priority grasslands targeted under the NJ program include grasslands threatened by both agricultural and non-agricultural development, grasslands that provide habitat to threatened and endangered plant and animal species, lands currently used for grazing operations, and lands that can be restored to grassland.

All applications will be ranked based on these priority criteria. Points are awarded for the type of existing land use, the diversity of plants species and wildlife habitat supported, and the risk of conversion to other uses.



Restored and Protected Grassland, Warren Co.

NRCS Service Centers

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